

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *E. Schmeider* DATE *4/10/87*

RDSE for EXDTEXT. DATE

TS AUTH.

REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DATES

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

United States Senate

Office of the Majority Leader

Washington, D.C. 20510

June 23, 1980

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you not to submit a proposal for supplemental equipment for the Saudi Arabian F-15 aircraft to Congress at this time. I would personally oppose such a sale, and I believe that the proposal would meet strong opposition in the Senate.

As you will recall, in 1978, I strongly supported your decision to sell the F-15 aircraft to Saudi Arabia. I made a considerable effort to help defeat a resolution of disapproval of that sale. I strongly believe that the United States should assist and cooperate with Saudi Arabia to assure its security in a vital and unstable region. Such a relationship is clearly in the interest of both nations.

However, I seriously question the advisability or necessity of the sale of supplemental equipment for the F-15. Such a sale would contravene the assurances given to me and others in Congress only two years ago that the planes would not be equipped with supplemental "offensive" features. I cited these assurances in urging Senate support for the sale of the F-15. These understandings were explicit and were crucial to the Senate's decision to approve the sale.

can see no rationale that would now justify providing this kind of offensive capability for the F-15's and therefore hope you will not pursue the matter.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Byrd

Robert C. Byrd